



Under Embargo Until October 19, 2005

Contact: Carey Evenson, PRR for EPA
Phone: 206-623-0232 x257
E-mail: cevenson@prrbiz.com

Coalition Announces Third Annual List of New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM



130 employers representing more than 170,000 workers qualify for EPA's growing list of Best Workplaces for Commuters



Boston, MA (October 19, 2005)—Today, New England's Best Workplaces for Commuters Coalition, a group of transportation, environmental, health, and planning organizations, released the third annual list of **New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**. The list recognizes leading, innovative employers committed to improving their communities by reducing traffic congestion and air pollution and improving the health and quality of life for thousands of commuters in the region.

Employers designated as one of **New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** include EMC Corporation, Bayer Healthcare, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC), Oracle, Abt Associates, and Chittenden Bank. In total, 130 employers representing 170,517 employees qualified for the list, which consists of large and small organizations throughout New England, and represents a wide array of industries including technology, healthcare and transportation. For a complete list of **New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**, visit www.bwc.gov.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also released the 2005 list of **Best Workplaces for Commuters from the FORTUNE 500 Companies** today. The list, exclusively for FORTUNE 500 companies, includes local employers Intel, Sun Microsystems, and EMC Corporation and highlights the fact that, with rising gas prices, commuter benefits are now even more important to help employees reduce commuting costs. In addition, these progressive companies realize that commuter benefits address employee work/life balance issues, which contribute to employee job satisfaction and ultimately better employee performance, recruitment, and retention.

"Given the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on US refineries, it important that we take steps to conserve fuel by carpooling and using public transit wherever possible," said Robert W. Varney, Regional Administrator of EPA's New England Office. "We applaud this year's employers for their leadership in promoting commuting strategies that reduce air pollution, decrease traffic congestion, and save employees money."

EMC, one of the largest employers in Massachusetts, operates and maintains a shuttle system that provides 2,000 rides a day to employees traveling amongst EMC facilities in Massachusetts. EMC also uses these shuttles to provide support for its "Guaranteed Ride Home" program, which assures registered carpoolers a ride home in cases of emergency.

2005 New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition

Association for Commuter Transportation Patriot Chapter • Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
MassCommute • New England Employee Benefits Council
Upper Valley Rideshare • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency





EMC also uses electric cars in its carpool program and is actively pursuing adding compressed natural gas (CNG) and hybrid vehicles to its shuttle fleet. EMC is also working with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to improve public transportation in non-urban areas.

"It's been a great program for EMC," said Paul Fitzgerald, Director of Facilities Services at EMC. "The initial driver behind EMC's employee-friendly commuter programs was compliance - to ensure EMC was doing what was necessary to satisfy any state and federal regulatory agencies. We quickly recognized that we could use the resources in place to realize other types of benefits, such as cost savings on customer tours, better employee productivity, as well as ease the traffic flow around the corporate campuses. And with fuel costs steadily rising, we are now looking to enhance the programs, such as instituting alternative fuel vehicles into the fleet program."

To qualify as one of the Best Workplaces for Commuters, employers must provide:

- At least one primary commuter benefit, such as a monthly transit/vanpool pass subsidy, cash in lieu of free parking, or a significant telework program.
- At least three supporting commuter benefits, such as carpool incentives, lockers/showers for bikers or walkers, incentives for living near work, or onsite amenities such as day care or dry cleaning.
- A central point of contact for commuter information who actively promotes commuter benefits.
- Access to an Emergency/Guaranteed Ride Home program.

About the Best Workplaces for CommutersSM

Best Workplaces for CommutersSM is an innovative partnership that distinguishes and provides national recognition to employers who offer their employees superior commuter benefits. These benefits help reduce air pollution, alleviate traffic congestion, and save fuel. They can also help employers save on taxes, reduce the need for parking facilities, and meet government trip reduction goals. For more details and to see if an organization qualifies, visit www.bwc.gov.

About the New England Region Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition

The New England Region Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition is composed of leading government, transportation demand management, and health organizations in the New England Region working to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and make commuting less stressful and costly. Members include the Association for Commuter Transportation Patriot Chapter, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, MassCommute, New England Employee Benefits Council, Upper Valley Rideshare, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

2005 New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition

Association for Commuter Transportation Patriot Chapter • Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
MassCommute • New England Employee Benefits Council
Upper Valley Rideshare • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency